

### REMARKS

This preliminary amendment is being filed in response to the Restriction Requirement dated 12/12/2003. Claims 20-22 have been canceled. New claims 23-25 have been added. Support for the new claims can be found in the specification and original claims. No new matter has been added by way of amendment. Examination and consideration of the claims are respectfully requested.

If in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of the subject Application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned.

It is not believed that extensions of time or fees for net addition of claims are required, beyond those that may otherwise be provided for in documents accompanying this paper. However, in the event that additional extensions of time are necessary to allow consideration of

---

Appl. No.: 10/068,570

Filed: 02/06/2002

Page 9

this paper, such extensions are hereby petitioned under 37 CFR § 1.136(a), and any fee required therefore (including fees for net addition of claims) is hereby authorized to be charged to Deposit Account No. 16-0605.

Respectfully submitted,



Leigh W. Thorne  
Registration No. 47,992

**Customer No. 00826**

**ALSTON & BIRD LLP**

Bank of America Plaza

101 South Tryon Street, Suite 4000

Charlotte, NC 28280-4000

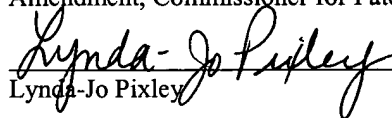
Tel Raleigh Office (919) 862-2200

Fax Raleigh Office (919) 862-2260

"Express Mail" mailing label number EV 390050496 US

Date of Deposit January 6, 2004

I hereby certify that this paper or fee is being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 CFR 1.10 on the date indicated above and is addressed to: Mail Stop Non-Fee Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450



Lynda-Jo Pixley

RTA 2148076v1